

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide wherein the nucleic acid sequence of the nucleic acid molecule is selected from:

- (a) a nucleic acid encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, or 484, or encoding a functional equivalent, derivative or bioprecursor of said protein;
- (b) a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence which is more than 70% similar, preferably more than 80% similar, more preferably more than 90% similar and most preferably more than 97% similar to any of the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448,

450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, or 484;

- (c) a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence which is more than 70% identical, preferably more than 80% identical, more preferably more than 90% identical and most preferably more than 97% identical to any of the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, or 484;
- (d) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481 or 483;

- (e) a nucleic acid sequence which is more than 70% identical, preferably more than 80% identical, more preferably more than 90% identical and most preferably more than 97% identical to any of the nucleic acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 49, 51, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 123, 125, 127, 129, 131, 133, 135, 137, 139, 141, 143, 145, 147, 149, 151, 153, 155, 157, 159, 161, 163, 165, 167, 169, 171, 173, 175, 177, 179, 181, 183, 185, 187, 189, 191, 193, 195, 197, 199, 201, 203, 205, 207, 209, 211, 213, 215, 217, 219, 221, 223, 225, 227, 229, 231, 233, 235, 237, 239, 241, 243, 245, 247, 249, 251, 253, 255, 257, 259, 261, 263, 265, 267, 269, 271, 273, 275, 277, 279, 281, 283, 285, 287, 289, 291, 293, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 313, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 333, 335, 337, 339, 341, 343, 345, 347, 349, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 377, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 395, 397, 399, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417, 419, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 455, 457, 459, 461, 463, 465, 467, 469, 471, 473, 475, 477, 479, 481 or 483;
- (f) or the functional fragment or complement thereof for the preparation of a medicament for treating diseases associated with yeast or fungi;
- (g) wherein expression of said nucleic acid molecule is varied by a factor of 5 or more as a result of Bax-induced cell death.

2. (Previously Presented) An isolated polypeptide which is involved in a pathway leading to programmed cell death of yeast or fungi, said polypeptide being selected from :

- (a) a protein having an amino acid sequence as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354,

356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, or 484, or encoding a functional equivalent, derivative or bioprecursor of said protein;

- (b) a protein having an amino acid sequence which is more than 70% similar, preferably more than 80% similar, more preferably more than 90% similar and most preferably more than 97% similar to any of the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, or 484;

- (c) a protein having an amino acid sequence which is more than 70% identical, preferably more than 80% identical, more preferably more than 90% identical and most preferably more than 97% identical to any of the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 104, 106, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 130, 132, 134, 136, 138, 140, 142, 144, 146, 148, 150, 152, 154, 156, 158, 160, 162, 164, 166, 168, 170, 172, 174, 176, 178, 180, 182, 184, 186, 188, 190, 192, 194, 196, 198, 200, 202, 204, 206, 208, 210, 212, 214, 216, 218, 220, 222, 224, 226, 228, 230, 232, 234, 236, 238, 240, 242, 244, 246, 248, 250, 252, 254, 256, 258, 260, 262, 264, 266, 268, 270, 272, 274, 276, 278, 280, 282, 284, 286, 288, 290, 292, 294, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 334, 336, 338, 340, 342, 344, 346, 348, 350, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384,

386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 396, 398, 400, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 414, 416, 418, 420, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 456, 458, 460, 462, 464, 466, 468, 470, 472, 474, 476, 478, 480, 482, or 484; or a functional fragment thereof for the preparation of a medicament for treating diseases associated with yeast or fungi.

3. (Original) A pharmaceutical or fungicidal composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 1 or a polypeptide as defined in claim 2 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier diluent or excipient therefor.

4. (Original) A vaccine for immunizing a mammal against yeast or fungal infections comprising at least one nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 1 or at least one polypeptide as defined in claim 2 in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5. (Original) A genetically modified yeast or fungus in which modification results in the overexpression or underexpression of at least one of the nucleic acids as defined in claim 1 or the polypeptides as defined in claim 2, which overexpression or underexpression of said nucleic acid or polypeptide prevents or delays apoptosis of said genetically modified yeast or fungus.

6. (Original) A method of identifying compounds which selectively modulate expression or functionality of polypeptides involved in a pathway eventually leading to programmed cell death of yeast or fungi or in metabolic pathways in which said polypeptides are involved, which method comprises:

- (a) contacting a compound to be tested with yeast or fungal cells having a mutation which results in overexpression or underexpression of at least one of the polypeptides as defined in claim 2, in addition to contacting wild type cells with said compound,
- (b) monitoring the growth, death rate or activity of said mutated cells compared to said wild type cells; wherein differential growth or activity of said mutated yeast or fungi cells is indicative of selective action of said compound on a polypeptide in the same or a parallel pathway,
- (c) alternatively monitoring the growth, death rate or activity of said mutated cells compared to mutated cells which were not contacted with the compound to be

tested, wherein differential growth or activity of said mutated yeast or fungi cells is indicative of selective action of said compound on a polypeptide in the same or a parallel pathway,

- (d) alternatively monitoring changes in morphologic and/or functional properties of components in said mutated cells caused by the addition of the compound to be tested.

7. (Original) A method of identifying compounds which selectively modulate expression or functionality of polypeptides involved in a pathway eventually leading to programmed cell death of yeast and fungi or in metabolic pathways in which said polypeptides are involved, which method comprises:

- (a) contacting a compound to be tested with yeast or fungal cells transformed, transfected or infected with an expression vector comprising an antisense sequence of at least one of the nucleic acid sequences as defined in claim 1, which expression results in underexpression of said polypeptide, in addition to contacting one or more wild type cells with said compound,
- (b) monitoring the growth, death rate or activity of said transformed, transfected or infected cells compared to said wild type cells; wherein differential growth or activity of said transformed, transfected or infected yeast or fungal cells is indicative of selective action of said compound on a polypeptide in the same or a parallel pathway,
- (c) alternatively monitoring the growth, death rate or activity of said transformed, transfected or infected cells compared to transformed, transfected or infected cells which were not contacted with the compound to be tested, wherein differential growth or activity of said mutated yeast or fungi cells is indicative of selective action of said compound on a polypeptide in the same or a parallel pathway,
- (d) alternatively monitoring changes in morphologic and/or functional properties of components in said transformed, transfected or infected cells caused by the addition of the compound to be tested.

8. (Original) A method of identifying compounds which bind to or modulate the properties of polypeptides which are involved in a pathway eventually leading to programmed cell death of yeast or fungi, which method comprises:

- (a) contacting a compound to be tested with at least one of the polypeptides as defined in claim 2,
- (b) detecting the complex formed between the compound to be tested and said polypeptide,
- (c) alternatively, examining the diminution of complex formation between said polypeptide and a binding partner, caused by the addition of the compound being tested.
- (d) alternatively, examining the alteration in the functional activity of the polypeptide, caused by the addition of the compound being tested.

9. (Original) A method of identifying compounds which selectively modulate expression of polypeptides which are involved in a pathway eventually leading to programmed cell death of yeast or fungi which method comprises:

- (a) contacting host cells transformed, transfected or infected with an expression vector comprising a promoter sequence of a nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 1 joined in frame with a reporter gene,
- (b) monitoring increased or decreased expression of said reporter gene caused by the addition of the compound being tested.

10. (Previously Presented) A yeast or fungus comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1 wherein the yeast or fungus is selected from the group consisting of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*, *Candida albicans*, or *Aspergillus fumigatus*.

11. (Previously Presented) A compound identifiable according to the method of claim 6.

12. (Previously Presented) A medicament comprising the compound according to claim 11.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for treating diseases associated with yeast or fungi comprising admixing a medicament according to claim 12 with a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a yeast or fungal infection in a subject comprising the step of administering a compound according to claim 11.

15. (Previously Presented) A method for modifying the endogenic flora of humans and other mammals comprising the step of administering a compound according to claim 11.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein the yeast or fungal infection is an infection caused by the yeast or fungi selected from the group consisting of *Candida* spp., *Aspergillus* spp., *Microsporum* spp., *Trichophyton* spp., *Fusarium* spp., *Zygomycetes* spp., *Botritis*, spp., *Cladosporium* spp., *Malassezia* spp., *Epidermophyton floccosum*, *Blastomyces dermatitidis*, *Coccidioides immitis*, *Histoplasma capsulatum*, *Paracoccidioides brasiliensis*, *Cryptococcus neoformans*, and *Sporothrix schenckii*.

17. (Previously Presented) A nucleic acid sequence encoding a polypeptide which is involved in a pathway for programmed cell death of yeast or fungi selected from:

- (a) a nucleic acid encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 286, 288, 290, 292, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 338, 342, 344, 346, 348, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 398, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 416, 418, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 476, 478, 480, 482 or 484, or encoding a functional equivalent, derivative or bioprecursor of said protein;
- (b) a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence which is more than 70% similar, preferably more than 80% similar, more preferably



more than 90% similar and most preferably more than 97% similar to any of the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 286, 288, 290, 292, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 338, 342, 344, 346, 348, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 398, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 416, 418, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 476, 478, 480, 482 or 484;

- (c) a nucleic acid molecule encoding a protein having an amino acid sequence which is more than 70% identical, preferably more than 80% identical, more preferably more than 90% identical and most preferably more than 97% identical to any of the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 286, 288, 290, 292, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 338, 342, 344, 346, 348, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 398, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 416, 418, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 476, 478, 480, 482 or 484;
- (d) a nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 285, 287, 289, 291, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 337, 341, 343, 345, 347, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 397, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 415, 417, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 475, 477, 479, 481 or 483;
- (e) a nucleic acid sequence which is more than 70% identical, preferably more than 80% identical, more preferably more than 90% identical and most preferably more than 97% identical to any of the nucleic acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 285, 287, 289, 291, 295, 297, 299, 301, 303, 305, 307, 309, 311, 315, 317, 319, 321, 323, 325, 327, 329, 331, 337, 341, 343, 345, 347, 351, 353, 355, 357, 359, 361, 363, 365, 367, 369, 371, 373, 375, 379, 381, 383, 385, 387, 389, 391, 393, 397, 401, 403, 405, 407, 409, 411, 415, 417, 421, 423, 425, 427, 429, 431, 433, 435, 437, 439, 441, 443, 445, 447, 449, 451, 453, 475, 477, 479, 481 or 483; or a functional fragment or complement thereof.

18. (Previously Presented) A nucleic acid according to claim 16 wherein the nucleic acid is derived from *Candida albicans*.

19. (Original) A nucleic acid molecule capable of selectively hybridizing to a nucleic acid sequence as defined in claim 1 or the complement thereof.

20. (Previously Presented) A nucleic acid sequence according to claim 17 which is mRNA

21. (Previously Presented) A nucleic acid sequence according to claim 17 which is DNA. -

22. (Previously Presented) A nucleic acid sequence according to claim 17 which is cDNA.

23. (Previously Presented) An antisense molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence capable of selectively hybridizing to the nucleic acid sequences according to claim 17.

24. (Previously Presented) An isolated protein which is involved in a pathway for programmed cell death of yeast or fungi selected from:

- (a) a protein having an amino acid sequence as represented in any of SEQ ID NOs 286, 288, 290, 292, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 338, 342, 344, 346, 348, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 398, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 416, 418, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 476, 478, 480, 482 or 484, or encoding a functional equivalent, derivative or bioprecursor of said protein;
- (b) a protein having an amino acid sequence which is more than 70% similar, preferably more than 80% similar, more preferably more than 90% similar and

most preferably more than 97% similar to any of the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 286, 288, 290, 292, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 338, 342, 344, 346, 348, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 398, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 416, 418, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 476, 478, 480, 482 or 484;

- (c) a protein having an amino acid sequence which is more than 70% identical, preferably more than 80% identical, more preferably more than 90% identical and most preferably more than 97% identical to any of the amino acid sequences shown in SEQ ID NOs 286, 288, 290, 292, 296, 298, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 316, 318, 320, 322, 324, 326, 328, 330, 332, 338, 342, 344, 346, 348, 352, 354, 356, 358, 360, 362, 364, 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376, 380, 382, 384, 386, 388, 390, 392, 394, 398, 402, 404, 406, 408, 410, 412, 416, 418, 422, 424, 426, 428, 430, 432, 434, 436, 438, 440, 442, 444, 446, 448, 450, 452, 454, 476, 478, 480, 482 or 484; or a functional fragment thereof.

25. (Previously Presented) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid sequence according to claim 17.

26. (Original) An expression vector according to claim 25 which comprises an inducible promoter.

27. (Previously Presented) An expression vector according to claim 25 which comprises a sequence encoding a reporter molecule.

28. (Previously Presented) A host cell transformed, transfected or infected with the vector of claim 25.

29. (Previously Presented) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 17 for use as a medicament.

30. (Original) A polypeptide according to claim 24 for use as a medicament.
31. (Original) An antibody capable of specifically binding to a polypeptide according to claim 24.
32. (Original) An antibody according to claim 31 for use as a medicament.
33. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising an antibody according to claim 31.
34. (Previously Presented) A method for treating a yeast or fungal infection comprising the step of administering an antibody according to claim 31 or an antibody capable of binding to at least one of the polypeptides as defined in claim 2.
35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the fungus is *Candida albicans*.
36. (Previously Presented) A nucleic acid probe which comprises a fragment of at least 15 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 17 wherein the nucleic acid probe selectively hybridises with the nucleic acid molecules.
37. (Previously Presented) A nucleic acid primer which comprises a fragment of at least 15 contiguous nucleotides of a nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 17 selectively amplifies any of said nucleic acid molecules.
38. (Previously Presented) A genetically modified mammalian cell or non-human organism in which modification results in the overexpression or underexpression of at least one of the nucleic acids of claim 1 or a human homologue thereof or at least one of the polypeptides of claim 2 or a human homologue thereof, which overexpression or

underexpression of said nucleic acid or polypeptide prevents or delays apoptosis of said genetically modified mammalian cell or in said genetically modified non-human organism.

39. (Previously Presented) A method for identifying compounds for stimulating or inhibiting apoptosis comprising the use of at least one of the nucleic acid sequences of claim 1 or a human homologue thereof and/or at least one of the polypeptides of claim 2 or a human homologue thereof and/or a genetically modified mammalian cell or non-human organism according to claim 38.

40. (Original) A compound identifiable according to the method of claim 39.

41. (Previously Presented) A medicament comprising the compound according to claim 40.

42. (Previously Presented) A method for preparing a pharmaceutical composition for treating proliferative disorders or for preventing apoptosis in certain diseases comprising admixing a compound according to claim 40 or 41 with a suitable pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

43. (Previously Presented) A method for treating proliferative disorders or for preventing apoptosis comprising administering the compound of claim 40 to a subject in need thereof.

44. (Previously Presented) A method for treating proliferative disorders or for the prevention of apoptosis comprising administering a nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 to a subject in need thereof.

45. (Previously Presented) A method for treating proliferative disorders or for the prevention of apoptosis comprising administering a polypeptide of claim 2 to a subject in need thereof.

46. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 1 or a human homologue thereof or a polypeptide as defined in claim 2 or a human homologue thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier diluent or excipient therefor.

47. (Previously Presented) A vaccine for immunizing mammals against proliferative disorders or for preventing apoptosis comprising least one nucleic acid molecule as defined in claim 1 or a human homologue thereof or at least one polypeptide as defined in claim 2 or a human analogue thereof in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Original) An expression vector comprising a human homologue of a nucleic acid sequence as defined in claim 1.

50. (Original) An expression vector according to claim 49 which comprises an inducible promoter.

51. (Previously Presented) An expression vector according to claim 49 which comprises a sequence encoding a reporter molecule.

52. (Previously Presented) A host cell transformed, transfected or infected with the vector of claim 49.

53. (Original) A nucleic acid molecule comprising a human homologue of at least one of the nucleic acid sequences as defined in claim 1.

54. (Original) An antisense molecule comprising a nucleic acid sequence capable of selectively hybridising to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 53.